### Ezekiel

## Chapter 12

1Then the Word of Jehovah came to me again and said:  
  
 2‘O son of man,  
  
 ‘You live in the midst of unrighteous [men]…  
 Those who have eyes that can’t see  
 And those who have ears that can’t hear;  
 For, they are a house in rebellion.  
  
 3‘So you, O son of man,  
 Must go and gather the things of a captive,  
 Then act like someone in prison…  
 [You must sit] there before them throughout the whole day.  
 And before them, you must act like a captive…  
 Someone who was carried away  
 And taken to some other place,  
 So that they will be able to see  
 What a house in rebellion they’ve been.  
  
 4‘You must set your things of a captive  
 In front of their eyes, throughout the whole day,  
 And walk as a captive before them each night.  
  
 5‘Dig a hole in the wall and crawl in it,  
 6And carry [your things] on your shoulders…  
 Act as though you are trying to hide,  
 Then cover your face so you can’t see the ground.  
 For, to the house of IsraEl, I’ve made you a sign.’  
  
7Well, I did that… Everything that He told me to do. I brought out the items of captivity that day, and that evening I dug a hole through the wall for myself (by hand), and I crawled into it as though I was hiding. And thereafter, I carried my things on my shoulders before them.  
  
  
8Then the Word of Jehovah came to me the next morning, and said:  
  
 9‘O son of man,  
  
 ‘The house of IsraEl, those who are now in rebellion,  
 Didn’t ask you what you were doing.  
 10So, tell them this concerning their rulers…  
 Those who are giving direction  
 To JeruSalem and its people.  
  
 ‘Say that Jehovah has spoken.  
 11Then explain to them that you’re acting out signs  
 Of the things that will happen to them.  
 For, [in the same way as you’re acting],  
 They will be carried away.  
  
 12‘Say [that Jehovah said the following:]  
  
 ‘The one who rules in their midst  
 Will bear his things on his shoulders.  
 Then he will dig a hole in a wall with his hands,  
 Which he will crawl into and hide.  
  
 ‘He’ll cover himself, so he can’t be seen  
 In a place where he can’t see the ground.  
 13Then around him, I’ll spread out My net,  
 And he will be caught in its wraps.  
  
 ‘So, off to Babylon, I’ll lead him…  
 Yes, into the land of Chaldea…  
 But he won’t be able to see it,  
 And there, he will come to his end.  
  
 14‘Thereafter, I’ll scatter his helpers  
 And those who’ve been his assistants  
 To the [four] winds [of the earth]…  
 I’ll send the broadsword [to chase] them away.  
  
 15‘And they’ll know that I am Jehovah,  
 When they’re scattered among many nations…  
 [For, wherever they go], they’ll be scattered.  
  
 16‘Yet, among their numbers, I’ll still leave a few  
 As survivors of the sword, famine, and plague  
 To speak of these things in great detail  
 To all the nations where they will be sent.  
 They’ll also tell how lawless they’ve been…  
 And they all will know that I am Jehovah.’  
  
  
17Thereafter, the Word of Jehovah came to me and said:  
  
 18‘O son of man,  
  
 ‘In grief, you will now eat your bread,  
 And in torment and affliction, you will drink water.  
 19Then speak to the men of this land,  
 And tell them that thus says Jehovah:  
  
 ‘Very soon, there will be no bread,  
 And the drinking water will vanish  
 Both in IsraEl and in JeruSalem.  
 Then, you will become extinct in the land,  
 And the violence among those who live there  
 Will have finally come to an end.  
  
 20‘Then the cities where you dwell will be [empty]  
 As extinction comes to your land,  
 And you’ll know that I am Jehovah.’  
  
  
21Well thereafter, the Word of Jehovah came to me and said:  
  
 22‘O son of man,  
  
 ‘Why are all the people saying this proverb about IsraEl?  
  
 ‘The days [that he speaks of] are still far away,  
 And all the visions have perished.’  
  
 23‘Because of this, tell them that thus says Jehovah:  
  
 ‘I will turn their proverb around  
 And the house of IsraEl will say this no more.  
 Instead, they will say that the days have arrived,  
 As have the words of the visions!’  
  
 24‘And [you must also say this]:  
  
 ‘False visions will come to an end,  
 And there’ll be no more speaking of omens  
 To curry the favor of IsraEl’s sons.  
 25For, after I tell them what I will do,  
 I’ll act and not stretch out the time.’  
  
 ‘Yes, tell them that thus says Jehovah:  
  
 ‘In your days, O you house in rebellion,  
 I’ll just say the words and then act!’  
  
  
26Then the Word of Jehovah came to me again and said:  
  
 27‘O son of man,  
  
 ‘See how IsraEl is rebelling,  
 For this is what they are saying:  
  
 ‘The visions he sees are of some distant time,  
 And he prophesies things [that won’t happen for years]!’  
  
 28‘Because of this, tell them that thus says Jehovah:  
  
 ‘I’ll no longer stretch out the words that I speak;  
 For now, I’ll speak and then do it!’